



TOP OF THE HILL



MONTGOMERY BELL ACADEMY 4001 HARDING ROAD, NASHVILLE, TN 37205
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8th Grade Trip to Atlanta

By Matthew Kaplan

On April 7th, the MBA Class of 2020 embarked on a voyage to the Empire City of the South: Atlanta. Immediately upon arrival, the 8th graders ate lunch in the CNN center and walked to the College Football Hall of Fame, only a few blocks away. The Hall consisted of three levels. The top floor contained a list of all inductees, including a touch screen display with in-depth videos and analyses of all players and coaches. Sadly, Terry Lecount, despite the tenacious efforts of the eighth graders to spot him, was nowhere to be seen. On the second floor, students were able to look through more exhibits, including a *College Gameday* simulator. However, most students ended up just watching others on the first floor, which had several football drills: field goals, diving catches, and target throws. After leaving the College Football Hall of Fame, the class rolled to Andretti World. There, the students enjoyed activities such as go-karting, laser tag, and various arcade games.

On day two, everyone woke up early and made a quick exit from the

hotel. From there, the three buses traveled to paintball. Although everyone had to wait nearly an hour for setup, it was worth it when the games began, and everyone had a blast. Students took advantage of the opportunity to shoot one another on the mask, toe, and pretty much everywhere else. A final game of Cardinal and Silver teams resulted in the utter obliteration of the Silver team. I suppose the Cardinals were still mad over their loss in the Field Day competition.

During the afternoon and into the evening, the class attended the Braves' game. Many would argue that the game was the highlight of the trip, as cool conditions without too much sunlight made for a pleasant night of watching baseball. No one had to be in their seats until the 7th inning. This freedom allowed everyone go about and take advantage of the various shops and restaurants. Some went to sit in a section with the worst view of the game, while others searched around only to find themselves immediately at Chick-fil-A. All jokes aside, the game was undoubtedly a huge success. Following the ride home, everyone went to sleep late that night.

Day three saw a permanent



departure from the hotel. The class rolled to Six Flags, where everyone enjoyed exploring the park. From roller coasters to funnel cakes, the class spent about five hours making the most of everything the park had to offer. After a long day, everyone headed back to the bus for the long ride back to Nashville.

The trip was a huge success, and we owe a huge thanks to all the MBA faculty who helped plan the trip and made sure it ran smoothly.

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ATLANTA

College Football Hall of Fame

By Aden Barton

After a long drive, the Montgomery Bell Academy class of 2020 arrived in Atlanta, Georgia. When most people are planning a trip to Atlanta, they want to see the Coca Cola museum or a Braves game. Most tend to forget that Atlanta is home to the College Football Hall of Fame. When the 8th graders arrived at their destination, we ate lunch at the CNN Center located right across the street from the College Football Hall of Fame.



They had great lunch options at the CNN Center, featuring Chick-Fil-A and Moe's, among others. After lunch, we ventured across the street and prepared to enter the museum. It was the first time many of the boys in our grade had gone to the College Football Hall of Fame, and we did not know what to expect.

We patiently waited in line for a while and finally entered the museum. As you walk into the front entrance, a huge wall full of football helmets from



more than 765 teams amazes you. The wall of helmets has every team you could think of from Eastern Oregon University to Webber International University. They even had Vanderbilt! On the first floor of the museum, there is an activity center where you

kick field goals on a regulation-sized field goal, catch a diving pass from a worker at the museum, and practice throwing the football into targets. While you are in line for the activities, you can watch highlights of the



previous year's college football games on a big television near the top of the building. After competing in the interactive part of the museum, you go to the second floor where you learn all about your

favorite teams and the history of college football in general.

Personally, I learned about some of the most memorable plays in college football history. I also learned about some of the greatest rivalries. There are stations

set up where you can watch videos or learn play formations from all-time great coaches and get badges. On the third floor of

the museum, you learn important traits like sportsmanship from great players and coaches who are respected in the college football community. You also find out the inductees of each year from the 1950's to the present. Recent inductees from the 2016 class include Randall Cunningham and

Derrick Brooks. I learned a great deal from the College Football Hall of Fame, and I hope to visit it again the next time I stay in Atlanta.



Broadcasters, Walker Cain and John Sewell

ATLANTA

Cardinal and Silver Duke it Out in Atlanta

By Aaron White

On the long ride through the city and back to the hotel, you reflect upon all those intense paintball moments from earlier in the day. In the first round, you and the rest of



Seal Team Six go up against Team Five. Unfortunately for Team Five, Coach Simpson sided with Seal Team Six. You play a few more games before eating. Then, Papa John's arrived, and you were the first in line. Grabbing two slices of

pepperoni pizza and a Pepsi, you sit down with your friends. Everyone is talking about either how they shot so many people or have a huge welt on their backs. You talk about how Coach Simpson crept up on people and made them surrender. Later, you play Capture the Flag. Nick Bailey was in his ghillie suit. You decide to go up into the tower to snipe some players. After running out of ammo, you keep shooting, as no one can hit you from your vantage

point. After that round, into the forest went Seal Team Six. This time, there were no adults on your team. After an intense battle, Jack Larish and his comrades conquered Seal Team Six. Then everyone was called back to the initiation area. Paint was in low supply, but Cardinal and Silver were still going to go at it in the forest. It was time for revenge. The rules stated that any player

who was shot had to sit out for two minutes and resume the game after the time had elapsed.

The teams were put on two different sides of the forest. With anticipation building, everyone was waiting for the start call. Finally, the referees started the game. The two teams charged toward each other. Battle cries were shouted, and after a few minutes, Cardinal started pushing forward. They were up to the Silver base, pinning down the players in the castle. Almost everyone was out of paint. Then,



time ran out, and the buses are approaching the hotel now. It's time to get ready for the Braves game.

ATLANTA

The Bravest Part of Atlanta

By John Raulston Graham

The tension built as the MBA eighth grade anxiously waited to exit the buses and make the walk over to the now-aging Turner Field. In the shadow of the once new ballpark, the class hurriedly snatched their tickets from the chaperones and entered with excitement. On the 42nd anniversary



on an infield single, a wild pitch, and a fielder's choice. The score remained the same until the Cardinals hit three pinch-hit homers in the final three innings to win the game. The game was hard fought, but the experienced Cardinals were able to produce the victory over a very young team.

There are no superlatives to hand game, as neither starting

four, the eighth grade did not let the Braves' struggles hinder their fun, as the game itself was not the only attraction.

Many people enjoyed eating good food, buying souvenirs, and simply talking to one another. Students enjoyed burgers from world famous H&L, ice-cream, and delicious breakfast from Waffle House. Popular souvenirs included sweatshirts, trading cards, and even a baseball bat. Overall, the MBA eighth grade enjoyed a wonderful bonding experience with each other at the game.

Source: ESPN

of Hank Aaron's record breaking home run, the MBA eighth grade attended a game that would be the final time MBA students would attend Turner Field because the new SunTrust Park will be opening next season. As if there were not already enough storylines, one more would be added. The opposing Cardinals hit a league record of three pinch-hit homers. The Braves lead in the early innings by four runs after loading the bases and hitting one sacrifice fly and three singles. However, in the fourth inning, the Cardinals scored three runs to cut the lead to one

out after this pitcher dominated, and only a single hitter had more than one hit. Although the Braves may have struggled in this game, in which they eventually lost seven to



ATLANTA

Six Flags: A Lot of Ups and Downs

By Aden Barton

The Atlanta trip was great overall, but definitely some of the most fun experiences and best bonding opportunities occurred at Six Flags. There must be something about going 85 miles per hour strapped next to your friends that brings people together. As I stepped off the bus and gaped at the immense metal structures that took up the sky, I felt a little nervous to know that I would be riding them. The eighth



waiting charged through. We ran first to Goliath, which in my opinion was the best ride at Six Flags. Seventh graders, when you go there next year, run to this ride FIRST. Don't go to Superman or Batman first; go to this ride because it has a giant drop, goes eighty-five miles per hour, and there is always a gigantic line there later in the day. We were at the front of the line just as

Goliath opened, and I was able to go on the first cart of the day. Goliath starts with the rider immediately being lifted up to a staggering drop and being catapulted down it while screaming. (It's all downhill from there.) The worst part of roller coasters is always riding to the top. The slow click-clack

of the gears and trying not to think about going down are daunting, but as the cart starts to tip and you get going it becomes really fun. Immediately after the exhilarating experience of the Goliath, we ran to the Superman and American Scream Machine with no wait on either ride. A note of warning: the Superman is fun but far too short to

wait long in line. I would advise you to go on different rides. The wooden rides are underrated as well, and even though they don't go as fast, what they lack in speed is made up by the wooden structure. Instead of being made of metal, the wood-structured track lets the rider have breakneck turns, the slight swaying of the roller-coaster, and best of all, the sounds of going on a wooden roller-coaster. It's almost as if you can hear the roller-coaster groaning under the weight of the cart.

The worst part of the day was obviously waiting in lines for later



graders lined up and went through the gates into Six Flags Georgia. My group and I immediately ran to the Georgia Scorcher. It was a good warm up ride, but pretty short. Immediately across from that roller-coaster were the gates that led to the rest of the park. At 10:00 they opened, and the horde of people

rides. However, even this experience is lightened because you are standing around with your best friends and time goes by quickly. After riding many of the roller coasters, we strolled around the park. Different styled restaurants were scattered across it, intermingled with fair games to win prizes. Overall, Six Flags has something for everyone: whether it is hanging out with your friends eating, playing basketball for prizes, or going on roller-coasters.

ATLANTA



Ned Freeland



"Please be warned; Coach Simpson is out there waiting for you."



Eric Saul



Gearing up for Andretti World



Coach Simpson is ready for action.



Photos Courtesy of Ms. Maggie Raines

Annual JS Poetry Competition Winners!



Aden Barton



Ethan Lilly



John Thornton



Thomas Peterson

Junior School Tradition Continues with Tenth Annual Poetry Recitation

The final round of the tenth annual Junior School Poetry Recitation Contest was held on April 19 in the Dead Poets Society Room. The competition is a celebration of National Poetry Month and the culmination of a year of quarterly recitation work by each student in the Junior School. The rounds begin with a representative from each English class and end with the seventh-grade finalists facing off against the eighth-grade finalists. This year's representatives for the seventh grade were Ethan Lilly and Thomas Peterson, and the eighth-grade winners were Aden Barton and John Thornton. The finalists were quite varied with their presentations. Aden and John presented impassioned but very different renditions of Marc Antony's funeral speech in *Julius Caesar*, and Ethan and Thomas took forthright and inspirational approaches with Rudyard Kipling's "If." Each performance was strong, and the competition was fierce, but eighth-grader Aden Barton emerged the victor. Congratulations to each of these young men for their hard work and fine performances.

MBA Mathcounts: A Tradition Like No Other

By Zach Brown

The Montgomery Bell Academy Mathcounts Team is undoubtedly one of the most famous institutions here on the Hill. At the very top of this institution is the legendary coach and teacher, Mrs. Qian, who epitomizes the ideals of MBA competition. She demands

year. The 8th graders struggled to find valiant success. It all began in the summer when there were high expectations after an impressive performance from the team last year. Mrs. Qian expected a lot out of season, so the team participated in a two week Mathcounts camp over the summer. With the fresh arrival of distinguished 7th graders Colin Tang and Andrew Bulgarino, along with the return of well-known 8th grade prodigy Baylor Sai, Mrs. Qian had

were quickly becoming a formidable force.

As competition neared it became evident that more work was needed. The squad began to practice more and more. Finally, chapter competition, which includes essentially all schools in Nashville and the surrounding area, arrived. Mrs. Qian, along with the entire team, was not pleased with the results. In chapter competition, Thomas Zeuthen placed third, Zach Brown placed fourth, Baylor Sai placed fifth, and both Colin Tang and Alex Kalams placed in the top ten. The team as a whole barely won the competition. Everyone was extremely worried. After two years of intense training, no one wanted the state competition to end in a disappointment. Leading up to the state competition, the team held four hour practices every weekend, and on the day before competition, there was a six hour practice. At state, the team performed well. Baylor Sai placed third and both Colin Tang and Alex Kalams placed in the top eight. The team earned second place, losing to White Station School. Although the team did not win the state championship, Baylor Sai earned the honor of going to the National Mathcounts competition two years in a row. The outlook looks favorable next year with the return of Colin Tang and Andrew Bulgarino, and the steady improvement of the other 7th graders.



The 2015-16 Mathcounts Team

nothing but the best from her students, and she sacrifices so much time simply for the benefit of the school and her students. Her coaching in Mathcounts is what sends the team to the top year after year. Accumulating a plethora of state championships in Mathcounts, she stands as one of the best coaches at Montgomery Bell Academy.

The entire team practiced strenuously throughout the entire

high hopes. Throughout the summer camp the team practiced for six hours a day for two weeks. It was an intense and rigorous training. They began to steadily improve, and when the school year began, the outlook seemed good. The team practiced for 30 minutes during lunch three days a week for the entire school year, and they also had a four hour practice on Saturday once a month. With their already impressive base knowledge and the coaching of Mrs. Qian, they

PREDICTIONS FOR THE CLASS OF 2020

Grayson Adams - Wingman
 Owen Albright - Hair Gel Model
 Stephen Avery - Study Hall Proctor
 Nick Bailey - Meme Maker
 Robby Barnes - Country Music Singer
 Aden Barton - Ferris wheel designer
 Davis Blankenship - Yacht Owner
 Tim Blaufuss - Pyrotechnic
 Brycen Brown - MLS Pro
 Zach Brown - Shoulder Counter
 Walker Byrd - Geologist
 Walker Cain - Pro Lank
 Tripper Capps - Little League Coach
 Cole Carr - Shoe Model
 Landon Cashwell - Zoologist
 Jack Clarke - YouTube Prankster
 Roy Claverie - Assistant to the Regional Manager
 Jack Collins - Computer
 McGavock Cooper - Patriot Cheerleader
 Ike Cravens - Seaside store owner
 Will Crawford - Flow God
 Richard Cummins - Razor Maker
 James Dennis - Cool Kid
 Tate Dillion - Magister Dillion
 Will Farner - Snapchat Stockholder
 Andrew Farris - Pro Truck Driver
 Tully Fitzpatrick - TV Chef
 Ned Freeland - Turkish Basketball star
 Ben Galanter - Weight Lifter
 Campbell Garber - Trump supporter
 John Raulston Graham - Remodels
 Grand Ole Opry
 Brian Graves - Time Machine Owner
 Spencer Grohovsky - CEO of Huggies
 Landis Hall - Superhero
 Peter Hall - Spokesperson for SunnyD
 Jacob Hanai - Maccabi Tel Aviv Coach
 Dudley Harmer - Golf Commentator
 Taylor Hartman - Hacker
 Matt Hawkins - Pro Golfer
 Grayson Hill - Professor
 Wesley Hirschman - Rower
 Harrison Hitt - President

Michael Hoffman - Pro Big Mike
 Harrison Holman - Manager of string factory
 Graham Holzapfel - Waffle House Owner
 Finn Houghton - Clasher
 John Hyde - Olympic Runner
 John Jameson - Dictator
 Ryan Johnston - HR Rep
 Alex Kalams - Math Dabber
 Matthew Kaplan - Most likely to go down the Rabbit Hole
 Mickey Kelly - YouTube Sensation
 Will King - Cowboy Boot Model
 Samuel Kirkpatrick - Single A Star
 Tanuj Koli - Car Analyst for Venenos
 Connor Kolstad - Most Likely to Replace Mr. Spiegel
 Sims Lance - Pro Advisory Football Player
 Jack Larish - Lax Bro
 Creighton Laub - NHL Star
 Marcus Le - Storyteller
 Ben Lindsey - COD trickshotter
 Antonio Lithmexay - Olympic Discus Thrower
 Christophe Loing - J-Pop Star
 Joseph Lucas - Big Jo the Lax Bro
 William Lummus - Grammar Police
 Will Mader - Comic Writer
 Clayton Malone - Most Likely to get a nickname
 Steven Mason - Iraqi Lacrosse Star
 Will McEvoy - King of Swag
 Jack McKennon - Treehouse Designer
 Luke McSween - Barry Manilow
 Noah Mendoza - CPA Coach
 Matthew Miller - Nintendo game creator
 Thomas Miller - Stand-in for Kimberly Rhodes
 Brennan Minkoff - Penguin Researcher
 Peter Minkoff - Deodorant Model
 John Moore - Professor Finesser
 Michael Morrow - Most likely to ask for candy
 Clay Overholt - Turkish Lacrosse Star
 Brown Payne - Skunk Trap Tester
 Kiran Peterson - Starbucks Barista

Grant Pinson - Pro Slow Pitch Softball
 Patrick Powell - Most Likely to post the same Instagram picture three times
 Sjeff Quaadvlieg - Pro Slitherer
 Brennan Roach - Most likely to catch the football in advisory football
 David Roach - Braves Supporter
 William Roberts - Snowmobiler
 Noah Rosdeutscher - Crunchyroll CEO
 Eric Russ - Lettuce Grower
 Coleman Rutherford - Cowboy
 Baylor Sai - Agar
 Jairo Santos - Baskin Robbins CEO
 Eric Saul - Banker
 Benjamin Sensing - Pro Bandwagon
 John Sewell - Skateboarder
 Jack Silvester - Slenderman
 Camden Slinger - Ginger Spice
 Jack Smartt - NBA Analyst
 Armaan Sodhi - Pro CSGO Player
 Marc Stanley - Therapist
 Turner Stevens - Most Likely to Hooch
 Jake Stumb - Snake Charmer
 William Sullivan - Most Likely to Grow Corn
 Forrest Sutphin - Lumberjack
 Colby Taylor - Clinton Supporter
 Cade Thornton - Body Builder
 John Thornton - Most Likely to become the hat man
 Quinn Trabue - Psycho Bunny
 Jordan Turks - Blogger
 William Tyrone - QB for the Tennessee Titans
 Matthew Ulm - Most likely to run a daycare
 Nick Viars - Most likely to lose phone
 Logan Vick - Worker at Logan's Steakhouse
 John Wallace - Varsity Bowling Coach
 Max Watts - Cinco de Mayo Parade Dancer
 Woodson Weathersby - Mopper
 Aaron White - Snow Leopard Trainer
 Thomas Zeuthen - Maverick

Bernie Sanders: A Destructive Candidate

By Matthew Kaplan

It's quite easy to have an opinion about Vermont senator and presidential hopeful, Bernie Sanders, without being knowledgeable of his credentials, policies, or characteristics. If you're a Democrat, you see "free college education" and instantly he seems as though he has sense that no other candidates seem to have. If you're a Republican, you see Sanders proclaim himself a Democratic socialist and you immediately think he's crazy.

Bernie Sanders would be a poor choice for president. However, his belief in socialism has little to do with why he wouldn't be the commander-in-chief we need. In fact, socialism, which can be ignorantly associated with Nazi Germany, is the belief that the government should control more of the economy than in a capitalist society, which is what America is thought to be. When Republican candidates criticize Sanders, they often refer to him as a socialist, indicating that he is as bad as Nazi Germany rule. In reality, the Democratic party associates with more control of the economy by the government, so socialism is a more extreme stance of a Democratic view. Sanders' policies and experience both suggest his lack of qualification for presidency, but his image as an authoritarian psycho does not.

Senator Sanders' policies are unrealistic and utterly flawed. First of all, his plans to raise taxes are



too extreme. While it is reasonable to have the upper class pay more in taxes, such as plans suggested by the Clinton campaign, Sanders wants to raise taxes to levels that would damage the upper class and the U.S.'s economy significantly. He proposes a plan that places a 54.2% income tax on the highest group of taxpayers. This solution means that the richest people in the country would have to pay more than half of the amount of money they make from their job to the government, much greater than current taxes. It is absurd that anybody should have to pay more than half of the money they earn. The Tax Foundation found that this plan would eventually lower the country's total GDP by 9.5%. Lastly, his campaign claims that over the next decade, tax revenue will increase by \$13.6 trillion. However, because incomes will decrease due to the near collapse of the economy, not only will everyone be paying more taxes, but the actual increase in tax revenue will be about \$4 trillion less than he claims.

Of course, Bernie Sanders is not simply taking our hard-earned money and spending it elsewhere. Bernie Sanders' most famous plan regarding the spending of the

increase in tax money is free public college. To be clear, public colleges are colleges paid for by the government, such as the University of Alabama or Michigan State University. This plan seems incredible, but it is flawed and completely unrealistic. If the government pays for the tuition of every student at the university, it will inevitably control the schools more than they already do. Controversy will definitely rise in reference to what the students should learn. Should the school teach students about evolution? This issue and others are already debated among high school boards all across the south. Universities should be institutions that decide for themselves what subjects should be taught. Additionally, the free public college plan damages our country because it damages private universities and colleges. Especially in instances of state schools, such as the University of North Carolina and the University of Virginia. These schools already compete with the top tier private universities, and less qualified candidates will be inclined to apply to the top private universities. Assuming this scenario becomes reality, private colleges will eventually lower their tuitions, resulting in all schools being

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of lower quality without the funds to have the same facilities, programs, and faculty. Therefore, Sanders' college education plan is, like his tax plan, flawed.

Lastly, Bernie Sanders' plan to destroy the big banks on Wall Street does not work in the long run. Throughout the democratic primary, the phrase, "No bank too big to fail, no individual too big to jail," has been often used by both former Secretary Hillary Clinton and Senator Bernie Sanders. Although there is some truth to the banks on Wall Street being too powerful (i.e. causing the entire world's economy to crash in late 2007); one cannot and shall not simply destroy them. The investment banks on Wall Street have a lot of money but also contribute greatly to the American economy. The U.S. would be devastated by the complete

breakup of the big banks and of the capitalist economy that has allowed America to thrive.

If you're not convinced that Bernie's policies are flawed, unrealistic, and destructive, then consider something else. America needs to be run by a balance of political views. It is of utmost importance that the power in the country shift from Democratic to Republican and back throughout time. This balance does not mean a Republican must get elected in 2016 in order to maintain content of the people, but a president should appeal to at least some people from both sides. While many people would argue that not a single Republican likes Obama, the President's policies and decisions have been very considerate to the Republicans in this country. He hasn't done anything radical or completely destructive. Bernie Sanders is too Democratic, too liberal, to be

president. According to the Bipartisan Index from the Lugar Center, Bernie Sanders is the most extreme senator on either side of the aisle. Do we want the most extreme senator to be our next president, who's supposed to be the representative of the people? No. The country needs a president that will not cause major uprisings by half of the country. We need a president who has more moderate views, even if these views be conservative or liberal.

I'm not suggesting that you decide to support Donald Trump or Ted Cruz. I'd argue that both are worse candidates. However, the country needs a president whose policies' pros outweigh the cons, and who is not far more extreme than the ideals of their own party.

Sources: The Lugar Center and the Tax Foundation



Donald Trump: America's Road to Disaster

By Aden Barton

All too often, opponents of Trump criticize him by making broad sweeping statements about his views. People say that he's racist or sexist without making any substantial claims about his specific policies or quotes. This kind of rhetoric has no effect on Trump supporters because they are already



organizations in the world, Donald Trump's tax plan would increase our national debt by 10.1 trillion dollars. To put that into perspective, one tax plan of Donald Trump's would bring more debt to America than Obama did in seven years. These policies would also decrease the federal revenue the government collects by 12 trillion dollars. That means that under a Trump administration, the

lowered by 1.4 trillion dollars. The result would be a decrease in the size of the economy of around 5.7 percent, similar to the amount that led to the Great Recession.

Now, let's discuss the second biggest issue of this election: American security. Trump's vague security plan calls for an increase of surveillance on mosques and American Muslims. He also wants to deport Syrian refugees and claims that he would shut down mosques if necessary. Not only is this plan blatantly racist, but it would also be ineffective. Contrary to Trump's baseless rhetoric, mosques are not places terrorists go to plan plots. There is simply no evidence or historical proof that one terror attack would have been stopped by more surveillance on mosques. According to a study done by Security Data, more terrorist attacks have been carried out by right wing extremists than by radical Jihadists. To paraphrase, the kind of people that Trump incites are more likely to launch a terror attack against the U.S. than the people for whom he wants to deny freedom. Not only is this surveillance policy ineffective and racist, but it is likely that this plan would increase the amount of anti-American sentiment. Terrorist organizations are fueled by fear and hatred. Deporting millions of refugees and surveilling specifically Muslims more than any other race will create exactly the kind of environment ISIS uses to recruit.

In conclusion, Trump's tax plan, which would increase the U.S.'s debt and lower its revenue by trillions of dollars, and his racist and counterproductive security policies, would lead America to the brink of a catastrophe.



too opinionated to listen to reason. However, this article can provide specific and grounded arguments against Trump, and will name some of Trump's policies that could lead the United States into disaster.

One of the most pressing issues of this election is the state of our economy. According to a report done by the Tax Foundation, one of the most credible tax research

amount the U.S. owes will increase while the amount the government makes will decrease. Yet another report by the American Action Forum takes their stance a step further and says that Donald Trump would cause an economic downturn equal to the Great Recession. Their investigation concludes that because of Trump's deportation policies, the total GDP of the US would be

Transgender Bathroom Laws

By Matthew Kaplan

Throughout the past several years, and in particular the last year, debates about LGBT rights have been near the forefront of nearly every political controversy. Just last June, gay marriage was declared legal in every state by the Supreme Court. Recently, the battle has transferred over to transgender rights.

In the last several months, both North Carolina and Mississippi congresses have passed legislation that requires people to use public bathrooms based on the gender on their birth certificates. At a first glance, this law seems very logical. However, its backlash has been intense and justified.



While the state governments back their laws by saying that transgender people need to get their birth certificates changed in order to use the bathroom that they identify with, they make it nearly impossible to get the certificates changed. Essentially, transgender people in these states are almost indefinitely required to go to the bathroom that they don't identify with.

A similar bill is being proposed here in Tennessee as well. However, many people think that Gov. Bill Haslam would veto the law, knowing its possible effects on the state as a whole.

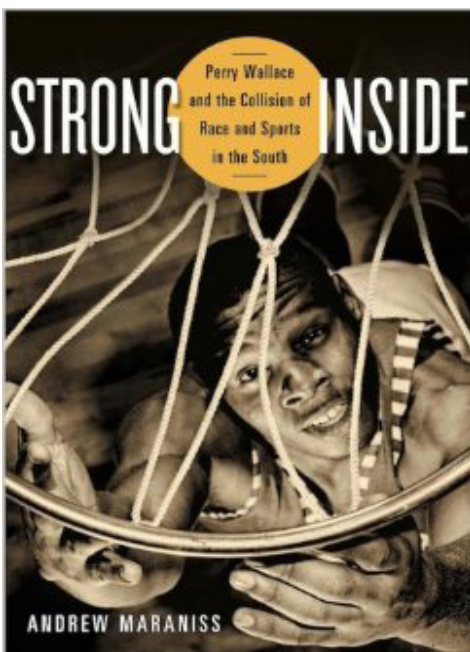
North Carolina has been embarrassed by multiple lucrative

events that have decided to pull out of the state. The NBA All-Star Game for 2017 moved out of Charlotte several weeks ago because of the new law. Ringo Starr canceled his concert in Charlotte. Deutsche Bank canceled their expansion in North Carolina. Paypal canceled their plans to create a global payment center in Charlotte, and Bruce Springsteen canceled his concert near Greensboro. Eight cities and four individual states have banned public funding for employee travel to North Carolina. Lastly, thirteen conventions have been canceled in Charlotte.

North Carolina has truly paid the price for passing this law. *The New York Times* projects that North Carolina will lose about \$5 billion a year. Several conventions have already been canceled in Tennessee in anticipation of the law being passed here. If the law is put into action, it could take a serious toll on Tennessee's reputation.

<http://www.theadvocate.com/politics/2016/4/13/heres-all-business-nc-has-lost-because-anti-lgbt-bill>

The All-School Read for Fall 2016



Strong Inside: Perry Wallace and the Collision of Race and Sports in the South

By
Andrew Maraniss



The Pre-Trailer Preview of *Star Wars: Episode VIII*

By Mauro Mastrapasqua

WARNING: THIS ARTICLE CONTAINS MAJOR SPOILERS FOR STAR WARS EPISODE VII: THE FORCE AWAKENS.

The newest renewal of *Star Wars* in December revealed more questions yet to be answered than answering the big question that everyone has been pondering over for the last 30 years: How has the Dark Side recovered from the fatal loss of the Death Star?...Twice? Well, that question, I believe, will be answered in *Episode VIII* when Kylo Ren reveals what The Knights of Ren are all about (remember Rey's flashback of Ren and Pasma with stormtroopers in the rain?). I believe the rest of the unanswered questions will fall into place when these four main questions are answered: What is the backstory of Rey? What is the backstory of Finn? Who is Supreme Leader Snoke? And who made Luke disappear?

Before we start making the assumption that Rey is Luke's daughter, let's think about all the options. Rey could be a daughter of Luke or Han, a granddaughter of Obi-Wan, force generated (like Anakin who supposedly doesn't have a father), or the daughter of some random person. I think that Luke is WAY too obvious, and I hope Disney doesn't have the audacity to create a character that has caused all this suspense only to reveal she is from an average family. That leaves us with Obi-Wan, the Force, or Han. I personally think Rey is a Solo because one, she had such an innate ability to fly (let alone know where the Hyperdrive is on the Millennium Falcon), and because there is so much tension between Rey and Kylo. I think it's safe to say that Rey Solo is a real person (in



the world of *Star Wars*, of course).

I don't know about Finn. He could be from pretty much anywhere. He could maybe be Finn Calrissian or Finn Windu. I do know one thing for sure though: Finn is DEFINITELY a Jedi. In every *Star Wars Episode* poster, only Jedi have lightsabers, and sure enough, Finn has one in the newest poster. I am predicting that Finn is a son of Lando Calrissian, who was the original owner of the Millennium Falcon. Han and Chewy did not and do not like Finn. This might cause a fight between Chewbacca and Finn when Finn is informed that he is the real owner of the Falcon. Finn could also possibly have a vision including Han as a Force Ghost (just as Obi-Wan and Yoda did in *Episode VI*). I am probably getting WAY too ahead of myself, but it's nice to think about these things.

Now we are left with two more questions: Who is Snoke and What happened to Luke? Snoke could be virtually anybody. I have heard that he could be Darth Plagueis, Darth Sidious' Jedi trainer. This theory could be possible considering we were never told by Sidious how Plagueis died. I highly doubt it though because, one, Plagueis is the number one option according to most of the Internet, so he is too obvious, and two, he is not very well-known. Another option is that he could be completely random or from The Expanded Universe (the official name for the comic book characters). But lastly, my personal favorite, Snoke could be Jar Jar Binks. WOW! I'm getting ahead of myself. You must be thinking, "No. It can't be because he is the most hated Star Wars character ever created!" But think of it. We saw Jar Jar fall down a waterfall, but he very well may have survived. This is a little bit off-topic, but all conflict between the Republic and the Dark Side is ALL Jar Jar's fault. If he hadn't been given the rights by Queen Amidala to speak for her in front of the Galactic Senate in Episode One,

he wouldn't have completely disregarded what she wanted like he did, and he wouldn't have made the whole galaxy a dictatorship lead by Darth Sidious himself. This is what I want, not what I think will happen. I am predicting some random character, but not from the Expanded universe, but a new character being Snoke. If we found out Jar Jar is Snoke in *Episode VIII*, I will probably cover half of *Episode IX* box office ticket sales.

Now, what happened to Luke 30 years ago? The obvious reason is that Kylo Ren was influenced by Snoke and killed all the padawan under Luke, except Rey, who was taken away and abandoned on Jakku. This storyline could be possible, you might think, but according to Leia, she WANTED Luke to train Kylo, implying that Luke didn't get the chance to because Snoke already took over (I'm not going to act like I've never seen that before). I believe that Rey was a student of Luke, but not a relative because that would satisfy those who think they have a connection, and not those like me who think Rey should have a different background. I also believe that Snoke made some big scene with Luke and his Padawan and took Kylo with him to train. He pulled off some crazy Jedi trick before Snoke made the scene, and maybe Snoke made the attack so he could capture Kylo. I think that Luke and Rey escaped, and Rey was found and abandoned on Jakku as Luke watched the whole thing with R2. This would explain one, what happened in Rey's flashback, and two, why it happened. This is spot on I think because Disney set a goal for themselves by making Rey's flashback-to have the whole thing explained in *Episode XI*.

I hope I have answered all unanswered questions, but I have some other brief predictions that don't fit into either of the four categories I listed above. I think the Poe Dameron will die in *Episode VIII* (he was actually written to die in the latest episode). I believe Captain Pasma will die. After somebody important dies (yet to be determined), Rey will leave everything and escape to some planet, only to meet Kylo Ren's replacement after he dies and have an epic duel that will conclude the newly complete saga FOREVER. Assuming *Episode IX* is the last episode...

Captain America: Civil War



United We Stand, Divided We Fall

By Tripp Chamblin

The most recent movie in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, *Captain America: Civil War*, is an instant success. The action film directed by Anthony and Joe Russo brought in over one hundred and eighty-one million dollars in its opening weekend alone, which makes the film the fifth biggest box office opening movie ever. *Civil War* is the third *Captain America* movie Marvel has made, and it is the best one yet. Chris Evans as Captain America and Robert Downey Jr. as Iron Man star in the movie, along with almost all of the other Avengers. The movie opens with the Avengers trying to stop a villain from stealing a bioweapon, and they succeed, but not without collateral damage. Many civilians are killed in this opening scene, forcing the United Nations to take action. Over one hundred countries then back the Sokovia Accords, which forces the Avengers to sign a contract saying that they will be puppets for the UN. Under the agreement, the Avengers can only fight when authorized by the UN. Iron Man, still haunted by the events of the last *Avengers* movie, *Age of Ultron*, immediately agrees to sign the

agreement, but Captain America thinks that someone's having control over the Avengers is not a good idea. Captain America thinks that eventually the UN's control can lead to something like the end of S.H.I.E.L.D. This disagreement splits the Avengers in half. The fate of Bucky Barnes, the Winter Soldier, also complicates matters even further. The disagreement between members of the Avengers concerning the contract and Bucky pits the team of superheroes against each other, resulting in a good amount of Avenger-vs-Avenger fighting.

Even though it is horrible to see some of your favorite superheroes fight against each other instead of a bad guy, the Russo brothers do a wonderful job of breaking our hearts. The film is not all action, but there isn't so much fighting that the movie feels forced. Instead of just showing Avengers beating each other up, there is content to the movie where the characters show and explain to each other (and to the viewers) why they are doing what they are doing. Many different things are going on with all the groups of Avengers, but the film transitions well from group-to-group. Also, two awesome new characters are introduced in *Civil War*, and they both have movies set for 2017 and 2018.

I would recommend this movie to anyone who wants to see a fun, edge of your seat, action-filled movie. *Civil War* answers most of the questions brought up in the movie, but the Avengers still need to straighten everything out in the next movies set for 2018 and 2019.

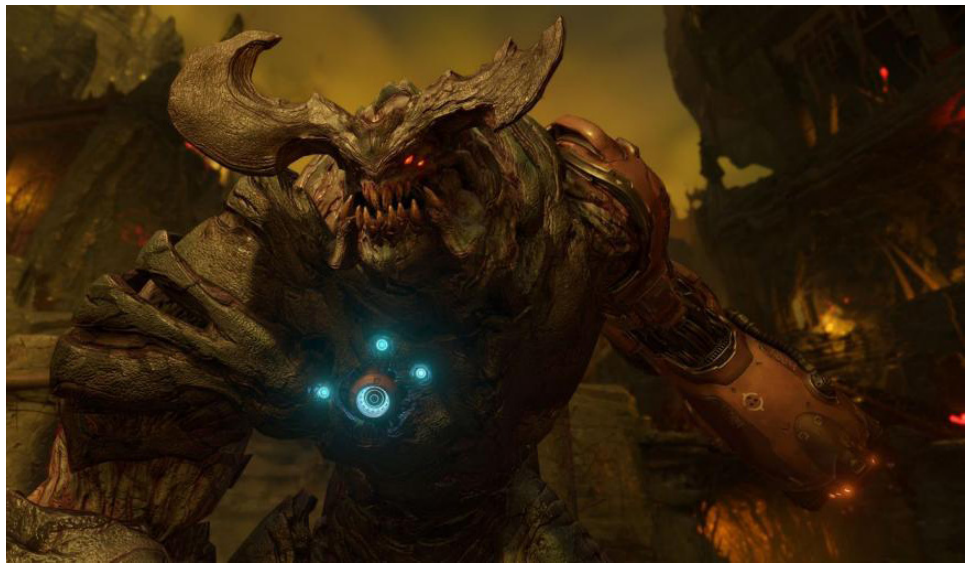
One of the movie's only flaws is the absence of Thor and the Hulk. These two Avengers were totally left out of the movie, and their absence is only explained in one line after the opening scene which is pretty disappointing. Despite this problem, *Captain America: Civil War* is one of the best superhero movies Marvel has made so far. Its creators have equally balanced action and drama to create a perfect superhero movie. I would give this movie 10/10 vibranium shields or 10/10 repulsor beams. (It all depends on which half of the Avengers you side with.)



Doom: A New Take on an Old Game

By Lee Loving

Doom will be the latest release by Bethesda software, who is also known for making *Fallout* and *Skyrim*. The game is similar to what it was when it was popular many years ago. It is a first person shooter game with insanely powerful monsters



and demons you have to shoot. *Doom* is a very gory game, so there will be a lot of blood and violence in this plot. The setting is based in a dystopian future on Mars, where the

main character must escape from a demon-infested laboratory, by himself, with thousands of demons out to kill him. Sounds fun? The game is extremely hyped up (unlike *Infinite Warfare*) with many people already playing it and millions more joining every day. Many say that even though there are only 8 guns, they always seem fresh every time they pick them up again.

The guns are the Shotgun and Super Shotgun (double-barreled), Plasma Rifle, Chainsaw, Chain Gun, Heavy Assault Rifle, Rocket Launcher, and the Combat shotgun. *Doom* also has a stunning multiplayer, with the same ultra-strong guns, and there are still demons in Multiplayer. It's as if you can't escape them. *Doom* is, as I said, an extremely bloody and gory game, so the title is obviously rated M for mature. You shouldn't play it if your parents don't let you. *Doom* is already out and people are already flocking to play.

Mrs. Roberts' Survival Tips

1. *If you are riding in it, wear a seat belt.*
2. *If you are riding on it, wear a helmet.*
3. *Don't swim alone, especially at night in the ocean.*
4. *Wear sunscreen and sunglasses.*
5. *"The term 'Hey guys watch this!'" is usually followed by a really poor decision. Be smart and be safe!*



Infinite Warfare: The Mark of a Failing Enterprise

By Lee Loving



With the latest *Call of Duty* trailer released, there has been a lot of controversy surrounding the production of the game. First of all, soon after the trailer of *Call of Duty: Infinite Warfare*, *Battlefield* released their newest trailer, *Battlefield 1*,



which will be an action-packed, World War 1 shooter with Zeppelins, biplanes and more. This release gave *Call of Duty* some large competition. In stark contrast, *Call of Duty: Infinite Warfare* is to be based in the future, with robots, spaceships, and the fans least favorite, exo-jumps. Since the last *Call of Duty* made by Infinity Ward was *Call of Duty: Advanced Warfare*, which many disliked, the fan base wasn't expecting the game they've wanted for a while now, *World at War II* or *Modern Warfare 4*. Now that the *Call of Duty: Infinite Warfare* trailer is almost at 2.5 million dislikes, it

seems like *Battlefield* will take over as the best first person shooter game of 2016.

Call of Duty is losing fans rapidly with their transition to futuristic games with exo-jumps and robots, and further losing their core fan base. With both new trailers out, the hashtag #ripCOD has started to trend. My perspective on it is that *Call of Duty: Infinite Warfare* may have been a three or four year project in the making, meaning it started before all of the exo-jump, futuristic

hate, and they can't just scrap a project they've been working on for several years. Since the amount of dislikes on the new *Call of Duty* trailer has been rising rapidly, many people have just been disliking it just to dislike it. Now the trailer and the new game are just seen as a joke. *Call of Duty* is going to stay with Playstation for the console exclusivity, and *Battlefield* will stay with Xbox. Since the PS3 and Xbox 360 are almost 10 years old, there will most likely not be any *Battlefield 1* or *Call of Duty: Infinite Warfare* on the old-generation consoles. The *Call of Duty: Infinite Warfare* release date is November 4, 2016, though at this rate, it doesn't seem like many people will buy it.





By John Raulston Graham

Following a year in which a team goes to the final game of the College World Series and has three players taken in the first of forty rounds of the MLB draft is never an easy undertaking. However, Tim Corbin was tasked with this challenge after winning the first ever NCAA men's championship for Vanderbilt just two seasons earlier. The Vanderbilt Baseball Team's roster contained very little experience going into this season, but Tim Corbin has accomplished much with little to no experience on the roster before. For example, the 2014 Vanderbilt roster was very inexperienced, and the roster contained very few seniors. Even though the 'Dores lost their top three starters to the draft, they still have a top-level pitching staff. The Vandy staff as a whole is ranked eleventh out of 300 Division I teams in ERA. The pitching staff ranks third and tenth respectively in both strikeouts and hits per nine innings. The rotation is anchored by Jordan Sheffield with seven wins, which is tied for 55th nationally. The rotation also includes

Wright, also with six wins. While the starters for Vanderbilt have been outstanding, the bullpen is, if not the best in the nation, one of the best. Ben Bowden has been remarkable from the closer's position this season, posting nine saves. The bullpen is also anchored by Matt Ruppenthal, who has been a strikeout machine for the 'Dores, and many others. This season the Commodores have struggled to find offense as almost all of the bats from last year's prolific line-up are now high-level minor leaguers. They are ranked a dismal 137th in Batting Average out of Division I schools. While their average has been very

low, they have not been the worst in runs, ranking 31st in the country. Bright spots in this season's line-up have included Jarrod Kendall with an impressive average of .349 and fourteen home runs, and Brian Reynolds with a great average of .331 and another fourteen homers.

The Commodores started off the season strong with only one loss to Stanford to taint their almost perfect opening of the season. Going into conference play, the 'Dores were 16-1 and continued to have success with a six game winning streak to open league play. Vanderbilt would lose their first series of the year to a highly-ranked Mississippi State team. They would not lose another series until they lost a series at Tennessee in late April. The 'Dores have struggled as of late, but that is mostly because of a tough series at a second ranked Texas A&M team.

The Commodores seem to always catch fire when the calendar turns to the summer, as they have made the College World Series in back-to-back years. Even with this inexperienced team, Tim Corbin should be able to pull something off in the postseason. Even if this is not the year for another championship, the future looks very bright with the young talent on this team.

Sources: NCAA.com, D1baseball, VU Commodores



NFL Draft Recap

By Jack Smartt

After much anticipation for the 2016 NFL draft, it finally came after two blockbuster trades for the top two picks. The first two picks of the draft were no surprise, but it was a big risk to jeopardize the team's futures for unpredictable quarterbacks. Jared Goff never beat a top 25 team, and Carson Wentz played at North Dakota State against below-average competition. The Cowboys took Ezekiel Elliott with the fourth pick in the draft. That was surprising, especially because teams have been reluctant to take running backs early. But, since it was the Cowboys, it makes sense because they are known for going after the flashy players. Jalen Ramsey was a great pick at number five. He is the best defensive player in the draft, and he could really make an impact on the Jaguars this season and in years to come.

The Tennessee Titans traded up and picked Jack Conklin from Michigan State with the 8th pick. Conklin was a former walk-on who was a dominant run blocker, but he struggled in pass protection. I thought that was a questionable move at first, but when the Titans took Derrick Henry in the second round, I could tell that there was going to be more of an emphasis on the run game. Laremy Tunsil at number thirteen to the Dolphins was a risk. Tunsil has had off the field issues, but he is the best offensive lineman in the draft. The Dolphins were terrible in pass protection, so it could be worth the risk because the next best offensive lineman was Taylor Decker. Despite off the field issues, Tunsil is known



to be a hard worker, and with the thirteenth pick, it could pay off.

Other good first round picks in my opinion were Shaq Lawson to the Bills, Josh Doctson to the Redskins, Laquon Treadwell to the Vikings, Paxton Lynch to the Broncos, and Robert Nkemdiche to the Cardinals. Shaq Lawson was dominant in college, and I could see him playing really well under Rex Ryan. Some people think Josh Doctson was the best wide receiver in the draft, and to get him with the twenty-second pick to help Kirk Cousins is going to help. Also, the Redskins are going to have a really good passing game with Pierre Garcon, Josh Doctson, Jordan Reed, and Deshaun Jackson. Laquon Treadwell was a great pick for the Vikings. Teddy Bridgewater needs some help in the passing game, and Laquon Treadwell is an elite receiver who can be Bridgewater's primary target. I thought Paxton Lynch was a risk in the first round, but he fits the Broncos' scheme perfectly. Gary Kubiak has been known to develop quarterbacks. Do not be surprised if Lynch is the starter Week One, because the other quarterbacks on the Broncos are Mark Sanchez and Trevor Simien. Robert Nkemdiche was a great pick by the Cardinals. He also

has off the field issues and questions about his work ethic, but he is a freak. Nkemdiche in the Cardinals' defense is going to be dominant. His presence when he is rushing the quarterback alongside Chandler Jones and Calais Campbell is going to be scary.

The Titans first second round draft pick was Kevin Dodd out of Clemson. I liked that pick, because the Titans need to put more pressure on the quarterback. I did not like the Austin Johnson pick in the second round. He went to college at Penn State, and he was a good player, but there were too many good defensive tackles still available. Derrick Henry was a great pick, but it was questionable why the Titans took him when they already had DeMarco Murray. I still liked the pick, because Henry does not have immediate pressure on him because he will likely be the backup. Kevin Byard was a good pick from MTSU. I also liked the sixth round pick with Sebastian Tretola. He could be in the mix for a starting job at guard even though he was picked in the sixth round. Arkansas had one of the best running games when he was there, and he should help the Titans and their new running game. Overall, I liked the Titans draft and was pleased by the picks.

MLB: Chicago vs. Chicago

By John Wallace

After only month of baseball, there have been many surprises so early in the season. The biggest surprise has been the emergence of the Chicago White Sox. While the White Sox have done well, however, the Chicago Cubs have been better. Both teams have lots of depth and two of the best pitchers in baseball, Chris Sale for the White Sox and Jake Arrieta for the Cubs. Although they have been pitching well, their batting is looking good also. The White Sox have a solid .243 average and the Cubs have a stellar 35 home runs so far this season.

Although the White Sox have been very good, they will not keep it up. Their pitching has been good from one pitcher, but that may not continue as the woes of the season get to him, and the batting is just above average.



MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

The Sox have also not played any good teams, with their best series win being against the Blue Jays, and the Jays are a sub-par team. The Cubs, on the other hand, will be consistent throughout the season because of the wealth of talent in the batting order and two solid pitchers with Jon Lester and Jake Arrieta. The Cubs have also come up with series wins against the Nationals, the third best team in baseball, and the Cardinals. The Cubs will most likely get to the World Series with ease.

In other MLB news, the Atlanta Braves have been the worst team in baseball. They have been just awful. The Yankees have also had a rough start, with Rodriguez batting poorly and their pitching just about the same. Another surprise has been the emergence of more consistent teams in the NL East. It was supposed to just be a showdown

between the Nationals and the Mets at the beginning of the season, but the Marlins and the Phillies have become above average teams. The Phillies have been a scrappy team that gets everything in play, while the Marlins have used power through Stanton and Yelich. The Astros have also surprisingly been quite bad this season. Their best pitcher last season, Dallas Keuchel, has been a disappointment so far, posting a 5.11 ERA this season after having a Cy Young caliber year last year. The New York Mets have been a solid team this year. Their pitching has been above average, but Matt Harvey, the Mets' opening day starter has been awful. Yoenis Cespedes and Neil Walker have been homerun machines for the Mets this year. Another great story has been Trevor Story of the Colorado Rockies who has one of the hottest starts in history.

Some early playoff predictions: The Cubs avenge themselves against the Mets and eventually beat the Nationals in the NLCS. The Royals beat the Red Sox in the ALCS, while breezing through the playoffs with their experience.

World Series: Chicago Cubs def. Kansas City Royals 4-1



Happy Summer from the TOH Staff!



NBA Recap

By Jack Smartt

The NBA playoffs have been very exciting thus far. The Golden State Warriors got two easy opponents in the first two rounds,



but the Oklahoma City Thunder are going to be their toughest match yet. After beating the Spurs in six games, the Thunder hope to make it back to the NBA Finals after four years of disappointment. After beating a historically good Spurs team, the Thunder look to knock off the best regular season team ever.

This Thunder team looks better than the one with James Harden on it that lost to the Miami Heat in the 2012 Finals when the Heat had LeBron. The Thunder is going to have to match up with the Warriors' small ball lineup, which presents a challenge for the Thunder, because it will be tough for Enes Kanter and Steven Adams to play against a smaller and quicker Draymond

Green. The key for the Warriors is to stop Kevin Durant. Instead of not showing up in the playoffs and thinking about his upcoming free agent status, Kevin Durant looks determined to win a championship this year with the Thunder. Durant and LeBron have probably been the two best non-Warriors players in the playoffs. The Thunder is going to

be a tougher matchup for the Warriors than the Spurs because of their athleticism and offensive ability. The Thunder are one of the most athletic teams in the NBA, and the Warriors have had a tougher

time with young athletic teams like the Thunder because of their ability to cover ground on defense and get back in transition. The Thunder's

offensive ability also hurts the Warriors because they are not an elite defensive team. In three games against the Warriors in the regular season, Kevin Durant averaged 36.3 points per game. Also, the Thunder need to get offensive rebounds against them because that is one of their strengths and the Warriors weaknesses. The Warriors should win this series, but the Thunder might be their toughest opponent in the NBA.

In the east, the Cavaliers won every game in the first two rounds and are preparing for the Finals this year. The Cavaliers should easily beat the Raptors, although LeBron James will go up against DeMarre Carroll, which will be the toughest defender he has faced so far. Despite that, the Cavaliers should beat the Raptors because of their offensive weapons like Kyrie Irving, Kevin Love, and J.R. Smith alongside LeBron James. I cannot see the Raptors making this series go more than five games without valuable center Jonas Valanciunas playing. Both of the conference finals series should be fun to watch. This year's NBA finals should be an exciting one!



Who Will Win? NHL Playoff Recap and Predictions

By Marcus Le

Please note this article went to press on May 15, so some events have changed.

The Dallas Stars(1), the Minnesota Wild(WC2), the St. Louis Blues(2), and the Chicago Blackhawks(3) start up in the 1st round of the Stanley Cup Playoffs for the central division in the Western Conference. The Anaheim Ducks(1), the Nashville Predators(WC1), the LA Kings(2), and the San Jose Sharks(3) start up in the 1st round of the Stanley Cup Playoffs for the Pacific division in the Western Conference. The Washington Capitals(1) and the Philadelphia Flyers(WC2), the Pittsburgh Penguins(2), and New York Rangers(3) start up in the first round of the Stanley Cup Playoffs for the Metropolitan division in the Eastern Conference. The Florida Panthers(1), the New York Islanders(WC1), the Tampa Bay Lightning(2), and the Detroit Red Wings(3) start up in the 1st round of the Stanley Cup Playoffs for the Atlantic division in the Eastern Conference.

The Stars defeated the Wild by a score of 4-2. The Blues pulled off the crazy upset against the Blackhawks 4-3, because the Blackhawks were the defending champs. The Blackhawks lost in game seven 2-3, but it was not easy for the Blues to win. The Predators upset the Ducks in exciting fashion. The Ducks had home ice and were number



one in their division. The Predators were able to force a game 7 and win it, in Anaheim, 2-1. The Sharks also upset the Kings. The Sharks, being the lower seed, defeated the Kings 4 games to 1. The Sharks' deadly power play allowed them to destroy opponents. In the Eastern Conference, the Capitals somehow managed to not sweep the Flyers. The Capitals, having 120 points in the regular season, had stout competition from the Flyers and had to play a game 6 to finish them off. The Penguins won the sixth game by a score of 4-1. The series was easy to play for the Penguins, because each game they won was won by three goals or more except for one game. The Islanders upset the Panthers 4 games to 2. The Islanders, being the 1st Wild Card Team, defeated the Panthers in six games.

Half the games in this series went into overtime, two of them being double overtime games. The Lightning defeated the Red Wings 4-1 and very easily advanced to the second round. The Stars(1) and Blues(2) played the second round for the Central division. The Sharks(3) and Predators(WC1) played in the second round for the Pacific division. The Capitals(1) and Penguins(2) played in the second round for the Metropolitan division. The Lightning(2) and the Islanders(WC1) played in the second round for the Atlantic division. The Blues had a close series while playing against the Stars. The series ended in a four games to

three win for the Blues. The Stars force a seventh game, but they wasted their energy in game six and lost that they lost in game seven 1-6. The Predators in game four went to triple overtime and won four goals to three. They put absolutely all of their energy into

winning this one game and went on to lose one to five in game five. In game six, urgent to force a game, they won 4-3 in overtime. Sadly, in their next and final game, they lost by a score of 0-5 ending their time in the playoffs. After winning five of the eight meetings during the regular season, the Penguins won the series four games to two. The Penguins upset the Capitals in a major way. The Lightning easily beat the Islanders four games to one advancing to the Eastern Conference Final.

The Blues and Sharks start up the Western Conference Finals, and the Penguins and Lightning have started with the Eastern Conference Finals. I believe that the Blues will win and advance to the Stanley Cup Finals because St. Louis has a much stronger offence. Though the Sharks have a deadly power play, the Blues have the penalty to counteract it. The Lightning led the series 1-1 over the Penguins. I believe the Lightning will win because the Lightning is four for four playing against the Penguins in the regular season. I also believe that the Penguins don't have any good defensive players except for Letang. For the Stanley Cup Finals, I believe the Blues will win because they are two for two playing against the Lightning. I also believe that the Blues have a very effective attack especially with Vladimir Tarasenko.

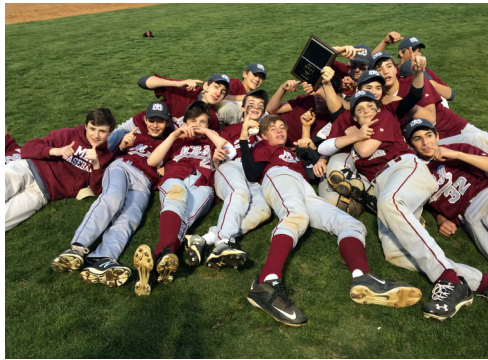
Microbe A Baseball Season Recap

By Tripp Capps

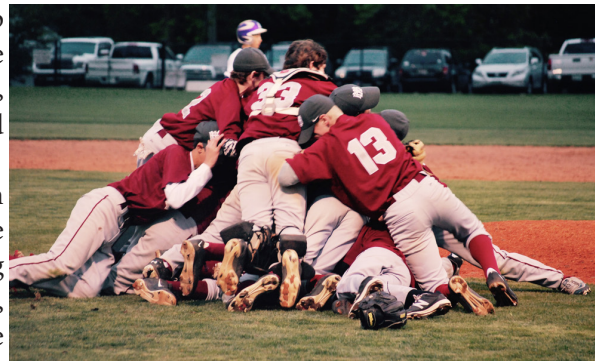
The MBA Microbe A baseball team had a very successful season, finishing with a record of 17-2. The season was capped off with a HVAC championship win that would go down as one of the best games in MBA middle school history. The team was comprised of fourteen eighth graders who led the team through ups-and-downs all year. The team started out very hot, winning their first eight out of ten games and would continue to go on a tear through league play with wins over Ensworth, BA, Goodpasture, and Lipscomb. In perhaps the tightest game of the year up to the playoffs, MBA beat Ensworth 8-3 with stellar pitching performances from Jack McKennon and Samuel Kirkpatrick. Jack started the game and pitched four strong innings that kept MBA in the game. Ensworth hit the ball very well, but the MBA defense played tough and gritty and made numerous hustle plays. In the end, MBA's defense and pitching were too much for the

Tigers. Jack Silvester came up clutch with a two out single that would tie the game up, and the Big Red never trailed again.

The Big Red then hosted BA in a very intense and important game. Allowing just three hits over five innings, Brennan Roach was on the bump and was spectacular. The game was close until the Big Red came up with many clutch hits which put the game out of reach for good. Jack Silvester, Tripper Capps, and Graham Holzapfel led the hitting parade. Also,



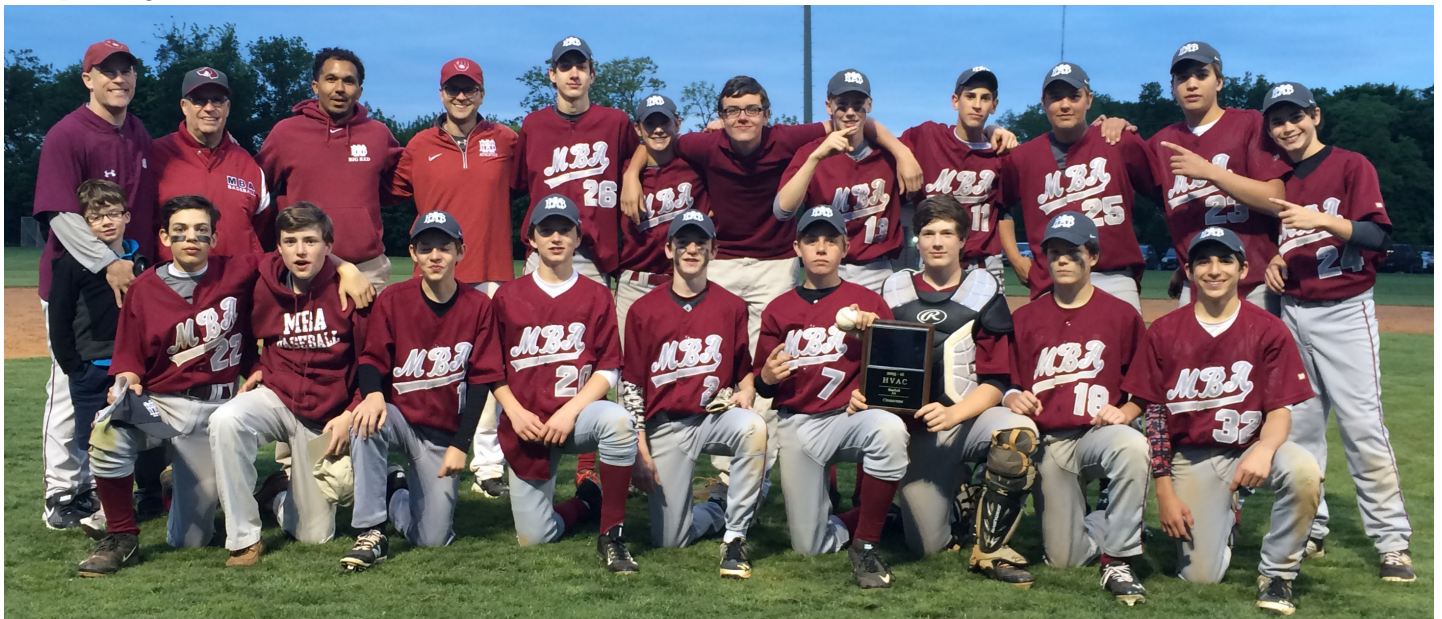
Silvester was the star in the field, making several diving catches in the outfield. The team earned the number two seed in the HVAC tournament and played Goodpasture in the semifinals. Trailing for most of the game, the Big Red never gave up and came from behind to win 6-5. Roach and Kirkpatrick led the



team on the mound with clutch hitting from Hitt, McKennon, and Holzapfel.

In perhaps the most exciting and nerve-racking game of the year, MBA played Lipscomb for the HVAC Championship. The Big Red led for a good portion of the game. However, Lipscomb answered with five runs in the fifth inning to tie it up. The game would go into extra innings. Several times Lipscomb had runners on third with no outs but failed to score thanks to McKennon. MBA managed to squeeze out two runs in the top of the ninth and then shut down Lipscomb. The game ended with a huge dogpile on the mound. A special thanks goes out to Coaches Golenor and Story for their great coaching and leadership. Also, a special thanks to Pops for his coaching as well. This team will be remembered as one of the greatest ever in MBA middle school history!

Photos Courtesy of Mrs. Beth Anderson



The 2016 Microbe A Baseball HVAC Champs!

B Team Baseball



By Dudley Harmer and Peter Minkoff

The Big Red B team baseball struggled at the beginning of the season, but a three loss streak in the first three games motivated the Big Red to work hard. The work paid off, and the team won six out of the eight remaining games, which included a five game win streak. The first win was a good one, with a 10-6 score against Grace Christian. The Big Red needed this win to get

the season going on the right foot. MacCurdy took the mound and had a great outing, highlighted by a three pitch inning. The team proceeded to win big against Brentwood 15-7. The winning streak stayed alive with a 6-3 game against Goodpasture at home. The game following at Nashville Catholic was a big one, with two consecutive triples by Mark Pyburn. The next week the team took on the Bobcats, an easier opponent, and won 7-1 at Pitt's park. Although the mound was not in great shape, Peter Minkoff started pitching and went for three innings. He was relieved

by Kinton Lewis, and they only let up one run collectively. The last game of the season against Lipscomb looked like it was going to be rained out. Rain was not unusual because there were five previous rainouts. Everybody played hard to make the last game a good one. The Big Red toppled Lipscomb 13-7. The coaches did an outstanding job of maximizing talent and developing skills while maintaining a fun atmosphere. We owe a special thanks to Mrs. Harmer for taking team pictures at the end of the season, and to the scorekeepers Mr. Barnes and Dr. Fleming.



JS Golf

By Matt Hawkins

The MBA junior school golf team had a solid season with many ups and downs making for a good year of golf. The team consisted of Woodson Weathersby, Eric Saul, Walker Cain, William Sullivan, Matt Hawkins, John Sewell, Turner Stevens, Joseph Robertson, and Jack Spivey. With a team core revolving around 8th graders, the team competed in many matches against tough teams such as Brentwood Middle School, Grassland Middle School, and Ensworth Middle School.

The season started off with an impressive match which the team won handily against Brentwood Middle. The team's next match was also against Brentwood, and MBA had a very tough loss despite some low scores. Following this tough loss, the team hit a rough patch with tough matches against Ensworth and Grassland Middle, a couple of the best teams in the area. After a three match losing streak against quality teams, the junior school golf team had an easy match, beating Goodpasture handily. Following this easy win, the team came back strong to take down a good Grassland team with many low scores.

Now, heading into the final stretch of the season, the team was determined to come on strong before the district tournament that was rapidly approaching. With just one match left against a Brentwood team played at Brentwood Country Club, the team was very prepared for a difficult match. In this eventful match, the team lost an incredibly



close match by only two strokes. Coming off of a difficult match, the Big Red had now seen what they were up against in the districts that were only a couple of weeks

away.

A team of eighth graders Eric Saul, John Sewell, Matt Hawkins, Woodson Weathersby, and seventh grader Jack Spivey, who had recently won a playoff against Joseph Robertson to qualify for the team for Districts, participated in the tournament on May 10. The team had a lackluster performance with a seventy-two from Matt Hawkins,

an eighty from Eric Saul, an eighty-two from Woodson Weathersby, an eighty-five from John Sewell, and a ninety from Jack Spivey. These scores put the team in third place behind Ensworth and Grassland, barely keeping the Big Red from qualifying for Regions. However, Matt Hawkins did qualify for Regions as an individual! The Junior School golf team looks forward to another quality season next year despite losing many eighth grade golfers.



The 2016 Junior School Golf Team Core

8th Grade Lacrosse

By Jack Larish

Coached by Coach Cooper, Coach Pollock, and Coach McWhirter, the 8th grade lacrosse team enjoyed a successful season with a 12-3 record on the year. The Big Red started the season off well with two wins at the Nicholas Caroland tournament. Led by captains William Tyrone, Steven Mason, Noah Mendoza, and Jack Larish, the team held their streak in the first regular season game against Brentwood Middle School with a score of 16-3. The team then dominated in their



next game against McCallie with a final score of 21-0. Next up was Woodland, who was beaten 15-6. The team only had one more game before Spring Break, but did not let thoughts of the beach or ski slopes distract them from their next opponent, USN, whom they beat 16-2. Returning from spring break, the Big Red had competition against rivals MUS and Colliersville. The MUS game was well played and ended up in an MBA victory 14-10.

Immediately after the MUS game the team went up against Colliersville. Fatigue had no effect on the team as they won 15-2. Returning from Atlanta the team faced Woodland in a close victory, 10-9. It was now time for MUS to travel to Nashville where they gave

MBA their first loss in another close game 9-10. Finally, the team beat the Irish 17-0. The McCallie tournament was next, and the Big Red was met with a loss to Pope in the first round 8-9. The team rebounded and responded with two astounding victories.

What followed was the toughest game of the season to the toughest opponent, Lassiter. The Big Red trailed early in the game but was gaining momentum with two unanswered goals before the half. Returning to the field, Lassiter fired back and won the game.

The season was a great experience for all of the eighth graders who look forward to a high school career, and the seventh graders who are eager to lead next year's team. Although the season ended with a loss, the whole team plans to continue to better the lacrosse program at MBA.

7th Grade Lacrosse Season

By Thomas McRae and Ramsay Cole

This team started with high expectations, as all MBA teams do. We started the season out with the Nicholas Caroland Jamboree. The first game was against USN, a decent team. MBA won with a score of 6-1. The game proved us to be a strong and skilled team. We played two more games that tournament against a strong Woodland team and a good Ensworth team, and we beat both of them 6 to 1 and 6 to 2 respectively. We had gone undefeated to that point and



proved to be a force to be reckoned with. With each practice, the team's stick skills and companionship became stronger. Next, we had a game against Clarksville. They were a very skilled team. We got out to an early 5-1 lead, and they came back a bit, but they weren't able to clinch the win. The 7th grade team pulled through with a 6-4 win. The team then played an Irish team that we should have beaten. We ended up tying the Irish 4-4, which was very disappointing, but a wake-up call for our team. That week we practiced harder than ever.

Next, we played a Brentwood team. We got out to a 4-0 lead 6 minutes into the game. The game then got called because of lightning. Ensworth came next. The Tigers were prepared for a fight and gave us a good game. We had slow offense in the game but won 2-1 behind some big defensive stands. We then lost to a very old and experienced Harding team 12-4. We then lost 5-6 to Hendersonville when a lot of key players were sick. Our next game was a 4-8 loss to MUS. The Owls stormed back the second half and won the game after a 2-1 halftime. The team then lost to Woodland 6-4. Finally, we closed the season with a hard loss of 8-9 against USN. We gave up 4 goals in the last 2 minutes to lose the game.

The last part of the season was not what we wanted, but many players improved tremendously. We hope the team will have great success next year and will lead the microbes well.

Junior School Track: A-Track-Tive Results

By Zach Brown



The Junior School track team faced an extremely tough season, yet through it all, they were steadfast in their dedication to the program and to their school. After an HVAC championship winning team last year, they had big shoes to fill. The team came in at the beginning of season eager to practice and with a desire to win. Despite having a lack of inhuman talent that the school across the street possessed, they showed up yearning to practice, and they did not complain about wearing sweatpants and sweatshirts in the unbearable heat throughout the entire season, which proved their unwavering desire to simply do the best for Montgomery

Bell Academy and their coaches.

With the help of the coaches, the squad developed skill in areas that were lacking at the beginning of the season. The hurdle group struggled at first, but because of the coaching from experienced hurdler himself,

Coach Russell, they managed to get over it. The pole vault team, consisting of Ike Cravens, Breckenridge Curnutte, and Connor Steanson,

and led by Coach Russell, started with almost no experience in pole vaulting, but they progressed throughout the season. Connor Steanson set the bar high with notable results. The throwers posted good results throughout the season, and the sprinters made improvements as well. The distance squad, under the guidance of Coach Reynolds and Cirillo, placed well.

After weeks of practicing, the team finally had their first meet, which was the Highland Games at FRA. The team performed well across the board, including excellent results in the 4 X 800 race and the discus. With the next meet, the Inman Relays, the team

faced a difficult challenge; they were playing without the 8th graders. The 8th graders were on their class trip in Atlanta, and the 7th graders had to cover for them. Although the results were not the best, they competed well without the 8th graders. The next meet was a Brentwood Academy JV race in which the runners and field event participants who usually do not compete in regular, scored meets had a chance to compete. MBA performed well without their regular participants.

As the season came to a close, there were two other meets at MBA before HVAC. The team was getting into the mind set for HVAC and performed decently in those meets. At last, the HVAC tournament began. At the tournament, Antonio Lithmexay destroyed all the competition in discus by setting a new HVAC record. Both the 4 X 800 and the 4 X 400 meter relay team also performed well. In the end however, we succumbed to the immense talent from other schools and achieved an acceptable 4th place. The team would like to thank the coaches for helping prepare the runners for the meets.

The staff and sponsors of Top of the Hill would like to thank the MBA Mothers and Fathers Clubs for their generous support this year!



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